

month of the session: One, we can get to a true and honest balanced budget; and, two, we can protect Social Security for future generations.

THE AMERICAN FARMER

(Mr. CHAMBLISS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, my friend the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) has been a class act ever since I have known him. He has once again shown that this morning.

Mr. Speaker, it should be no secret to the Members of this body that the American farmer produces the best food and fiber products in the world, but what is a secret to many inside Washington's Beltway is the crisis gripping America's rural economies. The deteriorating state of America's farm economy is a national priority and must be addressed. Yet the Clinton administration and particularly USDA only offer up inflammatory rhetoric instead of a substantive emergency aid plan.

In Georgia alone, this year's crop losses from forces of nature approach \$767 million. The story is the same all across rural America. Our farmers need strong leadership, not partisan politics as usual.

I implore the Clinton administration once again to quit playing partisan politics with America's family farmers and to start making meaningful and appropriate decisions at the Department of Agriculture. Let us move on policies to help the American family farmer survive.

SAVING SOCIAL SECURITY AND LOWERING THE NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today the Committee on Ways and Means is going to consider an \$80 billion tax cut, and supporters are admitting that we will use part of the so-called budget surplus to pay for it.

There are three things that the people in America get that some people here in this Chamber just do not get:

First, there is no real budget surplus, not unless you want to raid the Social Security trust fund, not unless you want to collect payroll taxes from working families and transfer that money into the pockets of other people in this country.

Secondly, this tax package not only spends the Social Security trust fund, but it also prevents us from starting to pay back the \$5.5 trillion national debt.

Finally, there is no guarantee that any of this so-called surplus is going to materialize given the international financial crisis that we are in today.

This tax cut is wrong for our seniors, it is wrong for our children, and sup-

porters just do not get it. We must protect Social Security, we must start paying back the national debt and we must oppose fiscally irresponsible election-year tax cuts that are not paid for honestly.

AGRICULTURE CRISIS

(Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, as a cow/calf operator from western Oklahoma, I can tell you firsthand that the crisis in rural America is real. Our producers are plagued by weak grain prices, drought, bugs, wildfire, and dwindling forage and hay supplies. Good farmers are losing equity and millions of dollars are being lost to our economy.

As our markets become as dry as the land we farm, the Clinton administration has failed to come forward with an emergency aid plan that will help producers make it until next year. These desperate times require swift and concise measures to aid our producers in their time of need. Partisan politics and demagoguery cannot be tolerated during this crisis. The Administration must quit using farmers like a political football and start making substantive decisions at the USDA. Oklahoma crop and livestock losses already amount to well over \$1 billion. Action is needed now.

Come on, Secretary Glickman. Our farmers are waiting.

SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. EDWARDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, next week Republicans will push for a vote in this House to steal \$80 billion from the Social Security trust fund. On behalf of the seniors of central Texas, I will strongly oppose that effort.

It is interesting, the same Republicans who just a few months ago right here in this House were saying it was dishonest to raid money from the highway trust fund are now saying it is okay, though, to raid money, to steal money, from the seniors' trust fund, their Social Security trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, if Republicans felt it was dishonest to steal from the highway trust fund, then I assume they are admitting it is dishonest to steal from the Social Security trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, I support tax cuts. But I will not vote for a tax cut next week pushed by Republicans that steals money from our seniors' future, from our seniors' security and our cherished Social Security trust fund. I think Republicans should think twice before they say highways and concrete and election promises are more important than saving our Social Security trust fund.

RECOGNITION OF FREEHOLD BOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL IN NEW JERSEY'S 12TH DISTRICT

(Mr. PAPPAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a school in my district that is truly fulfilling its mission of providing the best possible education it can to its students.

This past Monday I had the opportunity to visit Freehold Borough High School for a tour of the school and to teach a class on the U.S. Constitution. Throughout my visit I was consistently impressed with the sophistication and knowledge of the students and the innovation and dedication exhibited by the teachers and administrators.

I began my visit by taking part in a lunch that was prepared by the students of the culinary arts and restaurant management class which is just one of the many ways they expand their curriculum to serve the dynamic and evolving opportunities faced by the students of today.

After speaking with Dr. Carolyn Mulhare-McKee, the school's principal, it is abundantly clear that the Freehold Borough High School is committed to providing a first-class education that will prepare its students for the 21st century. The residents and parents of this area should be proud to have such a fine school educating their children.

POLITICAL WITCH-HUNT CONTINUES

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged that the Committee on the Judiciary is about to release the tape of the President's grand jury testimony to the public. I thought that grand jury testimony is supposed to be confidential. So much for due process. The whole purpose in releasing the tape is to once again embarrass and humiliate the President as Mr. Starr did in his report when he put in graphic sexual details so our children could read them on the Internet. We did not even give the President the simple courtesy of seeing the report a day or two before its release even though we had given the Speaker of the House the courtesy when the House Ethics Committee had charges against him. So much for the bipartisanship that was promised to us by the House Republican leadership. The political witch-hunt against the President continues.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair would advise all Members that they must refrain from personal references to the President or